ROBERT POWELL, president of the Committee to Restore City Hall, at left, discusses the history of Carbondale during a lecture held at City Hall during the recent Pioneer Days celebration. (Wrobleski Photo)

Recent lecture, film series proves very popular

During the recently held Fourth Annual Pioneer Days celebration, the Committee To Restore City Hall sponsored its First Carbondale City Hall Lecture and Film Series, and according to the committee's president the series was "an unqualified success."

S. Robert Powell, committee president, his brother Donald, as well as Joseph Pasco, Jean Colville and John Buberniak, coordinated lectures and films August 23-29 in city council chambers. "Judging by the large turnouts at each of the presentations, the committee may have to look for a larger room next year to accomodate the crowds," Robert Powell noted.

The local historian commented that crowds grew larger as the week progressed, and at some presentations, so many attended that "it was standing room only. The series was met with such interest by the public that the committee is already beginning to plan next year's series. Powell added that since "people of all ages enjoyed the series, the committee may possibly conduct occasional lectures throughout the year."

Programs offered included "Carbondale 1851," by Donald Powell; "The Early Schools of Carbondale," by S. Robert Powell; "Pioneer Carbondale," by Kay and Oliver Shifler; two films, "The Canaler" and "What Is a Museum?"; "The Scranton Division of the New York Ontario and Western Railway Company" by Robert Tomaine; "Dorflinger Glass," by Kurt Reed; "The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad" by John Buberniak and Robert Powell; and "Carbondale's Three City Halls" by Robert Powell.